

*Misc. file*

*Phil*  
5 ~~March~~ 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] USAF  
Assistant Director for Processing  
Defense Intelligence Agency

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SUBJECT : Request for Informal DIA Briefing of Board  
of National Estimates on North Vietnamese  
Army and Viet Cong Order of Battle

1. The Board of National Estimates would like to receive an informal briefing on the subject of North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong Order of Battle as background for work on the forthcoming NIE 14.3-66. We would greatly appreciate it if you could arrange to have your experts on this subject give the Board a briefing on this topic sometime during the week of 11 April. We have in mind something on the order of an hour's session, perhaps 30 to 40 minutes of briefing with the remainder of the time devoted to questions and discussion, to be conducted in the USIB Conference Room at CIA Headquarters.

2. The Board would be interested in having the briefing cover Order of Battle of Communist forces in both North and South Vietnam. It would be desirable to include what is known about the mobilization and training programs, command structure, relationship of NVA to VC units, pattern of deployment and use, communications, equipment and any other aspects your experts consider appropriate. It would also be appreciated if you could say something about sources and methodology, criteria used for confirmation, and major intelligence gaps. We do not mean by this request to solicit DIA's contribution to NIE 14.3-66 in advance, but rather to get a general view of the problems we will have to resolve in producing that estimate.

3. The most desirable times would be Monday, 11 April, at 1000, or 1400. Please advise us if one of these is satisfactory for you. For any further information in connection with the briefing request or arrangements, please telephone [REDACTED]

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SHERMAN KENT  
Director  
National Estimates